

Serblowski Wins Prestigious Scholarship

By Brooke Hogemann of the Humboldt Journal

A prestigious scholarship from the University of Saskatchewan was recently awarded to a Grade 12 student at Bruno Central School.

Brittany Serblowski found out in April that she was one of 15 future U of S students awarded the University of Saskatchewan Entrance Scholarship – one of the university's top awards.

"I guess it's pretty prestigious," Serblowski said. "They had to choose out of thousands of applicants."

The scholarship is worth \$16,200 and will be paid out over four years, if she keeps her grades up in university.

"For the first year I get \$4,200," Serblowski said. "Then I have to maintain an 80 per cent average for the next three years to get (the rest)."

To ensure she keeps her marks high, Serblowski said she is going to enroll in pre-dentistry classes at St. Peter's College in Muenster, where the classes are smaller than at the large U of S campus.

"They say on average grades drop 20 per cent in your first year of (university) and I want to keep my scholarship," Serblowski said.

And with good reason – dentistry school cost \$32,000 a year, so every little bit helps.

"I applied for all the scholarships I could because I'm applying for dentistry," Serblowski said.

She added that she always wanted to go into the medical field, but after taking part in the work exploration program at Bruno Central School, she decided to focus on dentistry.

"I really enjoyed my experience at Atrium Dental in Saskatoon," Serblowski said, "I got to bring patients in, assist in extractions, make mouth guards and sterilize the rooms (after patients left)."

"That finalized my decision," she added.

The entrance scholarship looks not only at grades, but at leadership and community involvement, as well.

"I'm on the YES (Youth Empowerment Strategy) team at school," Serblowski said of her involvement in the community. "Once every couple months we hold breakfast for the community to show the importance of breakfast and we hand out snacks, like muffins, to students."

Other community involvement and leadership activities for Serblowski include the community wellness co-ordinator position under Prairie View Foundation Board, where Serblowski did a variety of things, including setting up and addictions workshop for students and parents. She was also captain of the volleyball team and a member of the yearbook committee, to name a few.

"It was also based on academic grades," Serblowski said. "You had to have an average of 95 per cent."

The principal at Bruno Central School sent a letter of endorsement on Serblowski's behalf to the university, praising her talents as a student, both academically and athletically.

"Brittany is very attentive to her studies," the letter states. "Assignments are completed in a timely manner and show a great deal of effort."

The letter goes on to say that Serblowski is a leader within the school and volunteers her time to make it a better place.

Prior to winning this scholarship, Serblowski received the Greystone Award from the university, worth \$2,000, but she had to give it up when she won the entrance scholarship because when a student receives an entrance award they are only allowed one scholarship.

"But I'm still a member of the Greystone Society," she said.

The entrance scholarship will be applied directly toward Serblowski's tuition and fees when she begins university classes this fall.